It is too early to assess the loss, if any, on account of the break up of the erstwhile USSR. However, the figures of shipment licences issued in respect of export of tea to CIS countries (erstwhile USSR) was 45.27 m.kgs during 1992 as against 109.96 m. kgs in 1991 indicating a decline of 64.69 m. kgs.

Utilising Marketing expertise of MMTC

758. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MMTC is on the look out for viable alternatives in marketing operations to make optimal use of its huge marketing infrastructure and expertise;

(b) if so, what are the details of new areas identified for optimal use of marketing network and expertise of MMTC;

(c) whether MMTC has approached international manufactures and trading companies to explore the possibilities of marketing collaborations; and

(d) the response from the international/foreign organisations to the proposals made by MMTC and details of agreements signed in this regard, if any?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In addition to the existing lines of activities, such as minerals, metals, fertilizers etc. the new areas of activities identified are in the fields of agro and marine products, gems and Jewellery, textiles, leather and chemicals. Proposals for setting up joint ventures with buy-back arrangements and investment proposals having import substitution angle are being explored. These efforts have not so far led to any agreements being concluded.

Second Phase of Trade Reforms

759. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are launching the second phase of trade reforms; and

(b) if so what are the details thereof, particularly structural reforms finalised/ envisaged and distortion in tariff structure pruning of negative list and promoting of genuine self-reliance and exit policy and other trade related reforms formulated/ finalised?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Reform is an ongoing process. The structural reforms undertaken in July-August 1991 and consolidated in Exim Policy 1992—97, are aimed at enhancing India's export capabilities and promoting self-reliance under a deregulated framework of foreign trade. The reforms consist of a gradual elimination of quantitative, licensing and other discretionary controls including pruning of Negative Lists, provision of export linked imports, reduction of import licensing, strengthening of export incentives and removal of procedural irritants through simplification and streamlining of policies and procedures.

Import of Ore from Japan

760. SHRI DIGVIJAY Singh: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any official delegation has recently visited Tokyo (Japan) last week and requested to import 10 mt. Ore in the financial year 1993-94;

(b) whether any agreement has been arrived at with Japan on this issue;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what is the total value of the imported items in Indian currency; and

(e) what is the amount of foreign currency that India will have to pay to get 10 mt. Ore?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKERJEE): (a) No, Sir. However, an official delegation visited Japan in January, 1993 and